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**Report on the conference on
Latino Students: Promoting Access and Success
And the Pre-Conference on *Latino Students and Culture***

**March 28 -30, 2007
University of Texas, San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas**

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The pre-conference on Latino students and culture was a half-day event sponsored by *Excelencia in Education*. *Excelencia* strives to accelerate success for Latino students in higher education. The program hosted by this group of educators consisted of a panel of contributors to a book on Latino students and higher education, a reading by Norma Cantu from her award-winning memoir, Canicula, and discussion from the audience.

The main conference *Promoting Access and Success* was a series of presentations by a diverse group of educators involved in ensuring that Latino students make it through the many obstacles they face in getting a higher education. Deans, professors, college presidents, directors, commissioners of higher education, vice-chancellor and other policy makers spoke on the issues colleges and universities face in assisting Latino students.

Karen C. Sanchez-Griego, executive director of ENLACE New Mexico, spoke on developing a “pipe-line” for Hispanic students in middle and high schools and involving their parents. ENLACE supports student academic and social support programs, community outreach programs and services, parent and family programs, and institutional practices and policy programs. ENLACE also sponsors leadership development, college tracking, college access information, summer bridge and faculty mentors programs.

Other presenters spoke on Reaching Latino Students, How Latinos Pay for College, Community College: Creating Pathways to Latino Student Success, What We know About Latina/os and Higher Education, and Latino/a Experience: Culturally Relevant Recruitment and Retention Initiatives. There were other interesting presentations that generated much discussion.

All presenters, discussants, and attendees had much in common in working to ensure the success of Latino students in higher education. Many ideas and recommendations and sharing of projects that work were offered. However, not one person ever mentioned the library and the important role the library can have in developing access and success for Hispanic students. The conference participants and coordinators learned about the UNM UL’s programs’ mission, goals, and objectives. Some were impressed and surprised to know about such programs; others were somewhat dismissive. Apparently, the library is not effective in higher education and in helping the Latino students with their academic careers.